

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Greetings from Iraq. Trust all continues to go well back in the States. I heard the Battalion's FRG potluck on Saturday at Fort Hood was a big success. Thanks to all who volunteered to help with the event and for all who participated. We continue to improve our facilities and positions here at our base camp as we get more into our mission. Even with our full days and busy weeks, we are working to ensure every soldier gets one ½ morning off a week to attend religious services and take some personal time. Additionally, keep those care packages and letters coming as the soldiers enjoy getting mail and items from home. Now on to the news from around the STB...

Greetings HHC InnKeepers! This week has been busy, but the troops are all settling into their routines. HHC continues to provide life support to the division headquarters given the rain and muddy conditions as a result. Most of 3ID has departed leaving us to establish our work areas to support our mission set. The Soldiers of the Week this week are from Headquarters Platoon - SPC Matthew Thomas, and, from the Support Platoon - PFC Samuel Jenkins. SPC Thomas has demonstrated the potential and fortitude to fill the role of the HHC Armorer, responsible for the maintenance of the unit's weapons. He is highly motivated and gives 100% to his mission. SPC Thomas was hand picked to fill this role due to the tremendous responsibility required of this position during the deployment. This month alone, he has rapidly learned the skills and systems to maintain paperwork and accountability of our weapons and sensitive items. SPC Thomas' goals are to continue his education in the Army and eventually apply for Special Forces. PFC Jenkins was promoted less than a week ago; nonetheless, he has already taken a major leadership role in his shift at the Division's dining facility. In addition to his other duties, PFC Jenkins escorts contractors to work everyday that support our mission here, has taught force protection classes to his fellow soldiers, and checks the exterior guards around the facility for proper uniform and procedures. PFC Jenkins is already demonstrating potential for positions of greater responsibility and promises to excel in the future. Thanks again to each and every one of you for your continued support of this great company. Now on to the troopers of the Division Headquarters...

This has been a busy week for the Division Troops Company. Focus has been on utilizing the tools that 3rd Infantry Division has given us to help manage our new Battle Space. The soldiers have conducted a lot of maintenance, and under the supervision of the Company Executive Officer, Captain Zachary Keller, have improved the stock of vehicles that have been left to us by our 3rd ID brothers. All the various types of equipment, other than vehicles, have also been a focus, as we establish our need of necessary equipment and supplies. SGT Maria Thedorf, and the Company Supply team that includes Private First Class

Richelle Nanquil and Private First Class Michael Talbot, have been extremely busy ordering and distributing the necessary supplies that keep a company of this size running. Know that your spouses are busy and focused, and miss their families back home immensely. Ironhorse! Now over to our favorite communicators in Alpha Company...

It has been a busy but productive week for Alpha Company. The Hub Platoon continues to perform beyond expectations keeping our network links in solid. Of note are three of their soldiers that are filling important jobs around the Division Headquarters: SSG Richard Hodges is filling a critical role in the network operations center, SPC Blanca Salgado is doing great work at the G6 Help Desk, and CPL John Crawford is diligently working in the TAC II platoon. SPC Layne Mahle, a TAC 1 Soldier from the Command Post Detachment, contacted an editor at *Men's Health Magazine* that stayed here last year as an embedded reporter. The staff of the magazine has taken an interest in SPC Mahle and the rest of the Detachment's "Buff Squad" (SGT Joel Medley, SGT William Watt, SGT Joseph Keller, SGT Ty Lamb, and SPC Ryan Langoski) who have set up a workout plan for the year to reach specific individual goals. The magazine is even considering sending workout equipment over to aid in their development. Headquarters Platoon continues to keep things moving behind the scenes. SPC Florence Mcatee and PVT Ada Hernandez are doing an incredible job in the Orderly Room, working hard to support their fellow soldiers, NCOs and Officers. The packages that the company's soldiers received from all of you when they got here helped tremendously and your continuing thoughts and prayers are helping to keep the soldiers of A Company going. Thanks for all that you do; Alpha Company will continue to make you proud and get the job done. Now over to our Army's best musicians, the 4th ID Band...

Besides slogging through mud that has the tenacity of brick mortar and evading some wild life here on the base camp, it has been a very productive week for our Band members. SFC Alix St. Felix and the Iron Crawdads rocked the chow halls with their combination of Funk, Rock, R & B, Reggae, Blues and Dixie Land. The members of this group consist of SSG Deborah Ryan (clarinet), SSG Carey Wiley (drums), SGT Christopher Williams (trumpet), SSG Gary Corbett (saxophone), SGT Jeffrey Smith (Tuba) and SFC St. Felix (leader / trombone). This group has won the hearts of many of the troops and is requested on a regular basis. The Jazz Combo under the direction of MSG Stephen Mohacey is a power house of true grit contemporary jazz. The members of this group are SSG Sean Kerley (bass), SSG Joshua Distefano (piano), SGT Brian Archer (drums), and MSG Mohacey (leader / saxophone). These groups, and others will be playing at the Division's different base camps, dining facilities, and morale, welfare, and recreation centers. Our Battalion Command Sergeant Major, CSM Edward Parker has adopted this group as his very own and they are planning to write a special tribute just for him. To all the Band's family members, the 4ID Band sends their hugs and kisses and asks that you keep them in your prayers. Now over to the soldiers in our very own Delta Company...

D Company has many different and unique sections that are a vital part of the 4th Infantry Division's mission while here at our base camp in Iraq. One that looks at terrain is led by CW2 William Russell and SFC Craig Silva. These two could not do their job alone and are assisted by a group of outstanding soldiers. Their team consists of SSG Anthony Jackson, SGT Tiffany Bryant, SGT Robin Buckhouse, SGT Scott Gilligan, SPC Lyda Cannon, SPC Scott Cecilio, SPC Michael Graham, SPC Christopher Knight, SPC Devin Leonard, SPC John Sosa and PFC Courtney Joyner. All of the soldiers have done a great job with the Transfer of Authority (TOA) from our counterparts from the 3rd Infantry Division and are now taking control of this area. In other news from the company, two soldiers have recently been promoted - SPC Michael Graham and PFC Courtney Joyner. These two soldiers are very deserving and will positively fulfill their potential at their new higher grade. It's time now for an update from our Division's journalists...

The hardworking soldiers of the Mobile Public Affairs Detachment continue to seek out new and interesting stories!! As you read this note, the first issue of our newspaper is being published. You should see it soon and be able to read about your soldiers and the other folks assigned to the Division. You may see some their stories in other places as well as the 4ID Public Affairs shop completes several media advisories everyday, some of them include stories about the division and go out to many news organizations. In sort of the same way, their video products are made available to television stations across the US. The MPAD sends video stories to a distribution hub in Atlanta, Georgia, where regional and local stations can acquire the stories over the internet and use it in their newscast. Thus, a story can air about a 4ID soldier on a local FT Hood station, as well as the Soldier's home town. Even you can view 4th ID video products available online by registering at www.dvidshub.net. The MPAD's troopers enjoy covering your soldiers as they do their important work here in Iraq. Now over to the soldiers of Alpha Company, 1-22 Infantry...

This past week, the Gators have worked extra hard to assume their mission. They frequently conduct combat patrols, conduct daily maintenance of their weapons and equipment, and assist with the security of the 4th Infantry Division. They are blessed with good health and motivated by the constant improvement of their living conditions. The troops of A Company enjoy accessible internet service, pay phones, PXs, and above-average dining facilities. As we approach the rainy season, it is very apparent that they will be challenged with an over-abundance of mud. All hope that the drainage of standing water will improve here on our camp. It certainly makes getting around on foot a sticky, slippery experience. Thankfully, it's something we can complain about and laugh about at the same time. The soldiers of this terrific company hope the first couple of weeks of 2006 have treated you all well.

This wraps up another newsletter. Trust you are finding these updates

informative. I'm very proud of all the hard work your soldiers are doing here every day. The troops are focused and looking after one another constantly. You can be confident and proud of their abilities and accomplishments daily as we contribute to our mission here. Please continue to keep us in your thoughts and prayers as we are keeping you in ours. Also, continue to look after one another and feel free to contact my Rear Detachment Commander, Captain Jeff Jordan, for any issues you need help with. He can be reached at (254) 449-3184, or Email at Jeffrey.j.jordan@us.army.mil.

Sincerely, LTC John W. Baker
Baghdad, Iraq
16 January 2006

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

If this e-mail is marked FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY it may be exempt from mandatory disclosure under FOIA. DoD 5400.7R, "DoD Freedom of Information Act Program", DoD Directive 5230.9, "Clearance of DoD Information for Public Release", and DoD Instruction 5230.29, "Security and Policy Review of DoD Information for Public Release" apply.